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GENERAL MILLS, INC.
Mechanical Division
2003 E. Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis 13, Minnesota

PROJECT SKYHOOK
by
R. F. Mautner and C. P. Merrell

FINAL REPORT
Projects 85022 and 85023
1 September 1953 to 31 July 1954
Contract No. Nonr 875(00) Annex I.

Submitted to
Office of Naval Research
Washington 25, D. C.

Approved by: J. E. Barkley
J. E. Barkley
Head, Chemistry and Physics Research

Submitted by: J. R. Smith
J. R. Smith

Report No. 1434
Date: 19 July 1955
Project: 85022 and 85023

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I. AIMS

On May 22, 1953, Contract Nonr 875(00) between GMI and the Office of Naval Research was amended to provide for the launching of "Skyhook" plastic balloons to carry scientific instruments to high altitudes. Scientific payloads were supplied by the Physics Departments of various universities also under contract to the Office of Naval Research. General Mills supplied "Skyhook" balloons, balloon controls and safety equipment. Engineering services for launching and altitude information were also supplied by General Mills technical personnel.

II. WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Flight work on this project was carried out from September, 1953 through July, 1954. Twenty-one flights were made in this period: Flights 1058, 1059, 1071 through 1083, 1135, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1181, and 1211. In addition, flight service consisted of obtaining International Civil Aviation Operation clearance, gas metering and inflation, and launching assistance. Tracking and recovery was provided for three flights flown during the field trip to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Another field trip made on this project was to the vicinity of the Galapagos Islands on the geomagnetic equator. Remaining for further work and constructed under this contract were four 85' balloons and two 128' Tapeless Tailored balloons (one ducted and one non-ducted).

A summary of flight data follows.

<u>Flight No.</u>	<u>Scientific Group</u>	<u>Balloon</u>	<u>Para-chutes</u>	<u>Altitude Control</u>	<u>Telemeter</u>	<u>Load Release</u>
1058	U. of Wash. J. J. Lord	733	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1059	U. of Minn.	85	28'	None	Supplied by U. of Minn. (Olland cycle)	Dual Timers
1071	NYU and U. of Minn Neuberg, Anderson	851E	24'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1072	NRL-Stiller	85	24'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1073	U. of M. Anderson	85	24'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1074	U. of M. Danielson	85	24'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1075	Bartol McClure	85	24'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1076	NYU Neuberg	WRI73	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1077	U. of Chicago U. of Wash. Schein-Lord	WRI73	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1078	NYU Neuberg	WRI73	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers
1079	NRL Stiller	85	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code- sonde	Dual Timers

<u>Flight No.</u>	<u>Scientific Group</u>	<u>Balloon</u>	<u>Para-chutes</u>	<u>Altitude Control</u>	<u>Telemeter</u>	<u>Load Release</u>
1080	Bartol McClure	85	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Dual Timers
1081	U. of M. Danielson	85	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Dual Timers
1082	U. of M. Anderson	85	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Dual Timers
1083	U. of M. Schein	85	28'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Dual Timers
1135	U. of Chicago M. Schein U. of Iowa M. Gottlieb	1161	30'	Constant level steel-shot 93,000'	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Radio Command & Dual Timers
1152	U. of Minn. E. P. Ney	1161	24'	Supplied by U. of Minn. (Follow-up)	Supplied by U. of Minn. (Olland cycle)	Dual Timers
1153	ONR Hitch-hike	85	2-12'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Dual Timers
1154	U. of Minn. E. P. Ney	131TT	24'	Supplied by U. of Minn.	Supplied by U. of Minn.	Dual Timers
1181	ONR Hitch-hike	791	2-12'	None	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Dual Timers
1211	U. of Chicago M. Schein U. of Iowa M. Gottlieb	128TT	30'	Follow-up control, steel shot	2 mc Dual Bellows Drum Type Code-sonde	Radio Command & Dual Timers

III. SUCCESS

All 1.5, 2, and 2.5 balloons flown were successful. Their average rates of rise ranged from 616 to 992 fpm and their floating altitude varied from 84,000 to 98,300 ft.

Three of the four 1 mil balloons failed. One Winzen 73' balloon failed from apparent cold brittleness fracture (see T-A #A-21194-A) and was not recovered, having landed 4.5 miles inland on a very rugged island of volcanic rock. Two GMI 85' balloons failed from apparent atmospheric turbulence (see TA's #A-21229-A and A-21202-B). One GMI 85' 1 mil balloon made a successful flight for NRL (Flight #1082). In all flights the cold brittleness temperature was exceeded by a minimum of 16°C. with the exception of Flight 1082 which failed at 42,000 ft. at -58°C.

Flight 1058 leaked gas and floated slowly down from approximately 60,000 feet and was lost by the tracking plane and truck as the winds at 200 to 300 mb level carried it faster than its ability to follow. It is estimated to be lost in the vicinity of Peoria, Illinois.

Flight 1059 burst on night ascent for the probable reason of atmospheric turbulence. The instruments were recovered, although the premature drop was at night.

Flights 1071 through 1083 were accomplished with a variety of balloons. This was due to the extreme urgency of the contract, which allowed insufficient lead time for obtaining materials. Use was made, therefore, of balloons on hand, balloons available from Winzen Research, and balloon materials presently in the plant on other contracts.

Flight 1181's timers did not function and therefore the load did not

release. Recovery was reported in the vicinity of Ogaki, Ontario, although tracking ceased on the second day in western South Dakota. As yet, the flight equipment has not been received at GMI's laboratory.

Flights 1152, 1153, and 1154 were launched from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The first flight performed very successfully, although the balloon leveled off low due to air being accepted at approximately 90,000 feet. The second and third were failures due to holes in the balloon. Although the hole was discovered in the third balloon before launching and was patched, the patch apparently did not hold because of a concentration of stress at the point of application of the patch and the balloon descended after reaching 78,000 feet. The remaining two flights, 1135 and 1211, were flown with practically identical loads and are of great interest for comparison of non-ballasted balloon performance at sundown of "air stabilized" versus "ducted appendix" design. It is interesting to note that at this altitude, the stratosphere (much more stable) contributes greatly to the ducted balloon's stability after sunset. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that all future work done at 10 mb or less pressure-altitude would benefit in altitude and stability by utilization of one of several methods of "check valve" appendix design. Both performed successfully, although each was accompanied by ballasting instrument failure and the total ballast was consumed before sunset on each flight.

Flight data from all flights are presented in the following section, Appendix A.

General Mills, Inc. is happy to have been able to work with the personnel of the Office of Naval Research in carrying out these high altitude scientific experiments.

FLIGHT DATA

APPENDIX "A"

GHI BEACON 1724 KC DBD S-31

THEORETICAL CEILING

FLIGHT NO. 1058

FLOWN 23 DEC. 1953

FOR 8 5023

LOAD ON BALLOON 1365

FREE LIFT 637-184

BALLOON TYPE	NUMBER	MATERIAL	WEIGHT
733 BH	399	ARL #147	167#

RATE OF RISE
605 FT/MIN TO 37,200 FT.
255 FT/MIN FROM 37,200 FT.
TO 49,100 FT.

RELEASE.
1516 C.S.T.

LAUNCH SITE
U. OF MINN. AIRPORT
0844 C.S.T.

ESTIMATED IMPACT, VICINITY
OF Moline, ILLINOIS
1545 C.S.T.

ALTITUDE IN THOUSANDS OF FEET

PRESSURE IN MILLIBARS

0800

0900

1000

1100

1200

1300

1400

1500

1600

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

D.K. 2-24-54

APPROVED

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

A-21261-PA

JUL 29 1955

BAROGRAPH NO 50219

SCHEDULED DURATION: 10.8 HRS FROM 2.05
DURATION: 2 HRS 5 MIN

THEORETICAL CEILING 86,300

BALLOON BURST
BELIEVED DUE
TO TURBULENCE

FLIGHT NO. 1059

FLOWN 15 JAN 54 U/M CERENKOV COUNTER
FOR 8 5024

LOAD ON BALLOON 404.5#

FREE-LIFT 86.8# = 14.7%

BALLOON TYPE	NUMBER	MATERIAL	WEIGHT
85	23	ARL 3525	181.5#

RATES OF RISE
IN FT / MIN

701

648.9

577

0205 C.S.T.
LAUNCH SITE
U OF M AIRPORT

EST. IMPACT AT
0410.8 MI SE
CATAWBA, WIS

0200

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

0300

0400

M.M. 16 APRIL 54

APPROVED

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME
GENERAL MILLS, INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

A 21277-A

JUL 29 1955

ALTITUDE DATA
GMI OBD CODE BEACON #7, 1724KC

SCHEDULED DURATION 2.5 HOURS FROM 0700

THEORETICAL CEILING

ASSUMED FLIGHT PATH

LOAD RELEASE
1522

TELEMETER ENCLOSED IN RED
POLYETHYLENE ENVELOPE.
GREENHOUSE EFFECT CAUSED
TEMPERATURE ERROR IN HIGH
ALTITUDE BELLOWS.

RATE OF RISE
907 FT/MIN
TO 80,700 FT

FREE AIR TEMPERATURE DATA
FROM USS CURRITUCK, 070300Z

FLIGHT NO 1072
FOR 65022 NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
FLOWN 7 SEPT 1953
LOAD ON BALLOON 149#
FREE LIFT 208#
BALLOON TYPE NUMBER MATERIAL WEIGHT
85 10 ARL-293 154#

LAUNCH SITE
00° 16.3'S, 90° 16.8'W
FROM USS CURRITUCK AT 0731

IMPACT IN PACIFIC OCEAN
31° 07'S, 37° 59'W
AT 1602

TEMPERATURE IN °C

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

D.R. 1-14-54

APPROVED

LOCAL STANDARD TIME (30°W)

4-21235-B

GENERAL HILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUL 29 1955

ALTITUDE DATA
 GHI DGD CODE BEACON #16 1746KC
 U OF MINNESOTA DOUBLE OLLAND CYCLE

ACTUAL DURATION UNKNOWN
 SCHEDULED DURATION 8 HOURS FROM 0830

FREE AIR TEMPERATURE DATA
 FROM USS CURRITUCK, 070300Z

RATE OF RISE
 795 FT/MIN
 TO 83,600 FT

LAUNCH SITE
 00° 16.8'S, 90° 18.5'W
 FROM USS CURRITUCK
 6911

THEORETICAL CEILING

TELEMETRY ENCLOSED IN RED
 POLYETHYLENE ENVELOPE.
 GREENHOUSE EFFECT CAUSED
 TEMPERATURE ERROR IN HIGH
 ALTITUDE BELLOWS.

SIGNAL FADED, 1242

TIMER FAILED, TRACKING ABANDONED 1842

FLIGHT NO. 1073			
FOR UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 6-5022			
FLOWN 7 SEPT 1953			
LOAD ON BALLOON 230#			
FREE LIFT 35# ± 6%			
BALLOON TYPE	NUMBER	MATERIAL	WEIGHT
85	16	ARL322	202#

IMPACT UNKNOWN, LAST POSITION
 AT 01° 01'S, 89° 50'W
 AT 1842

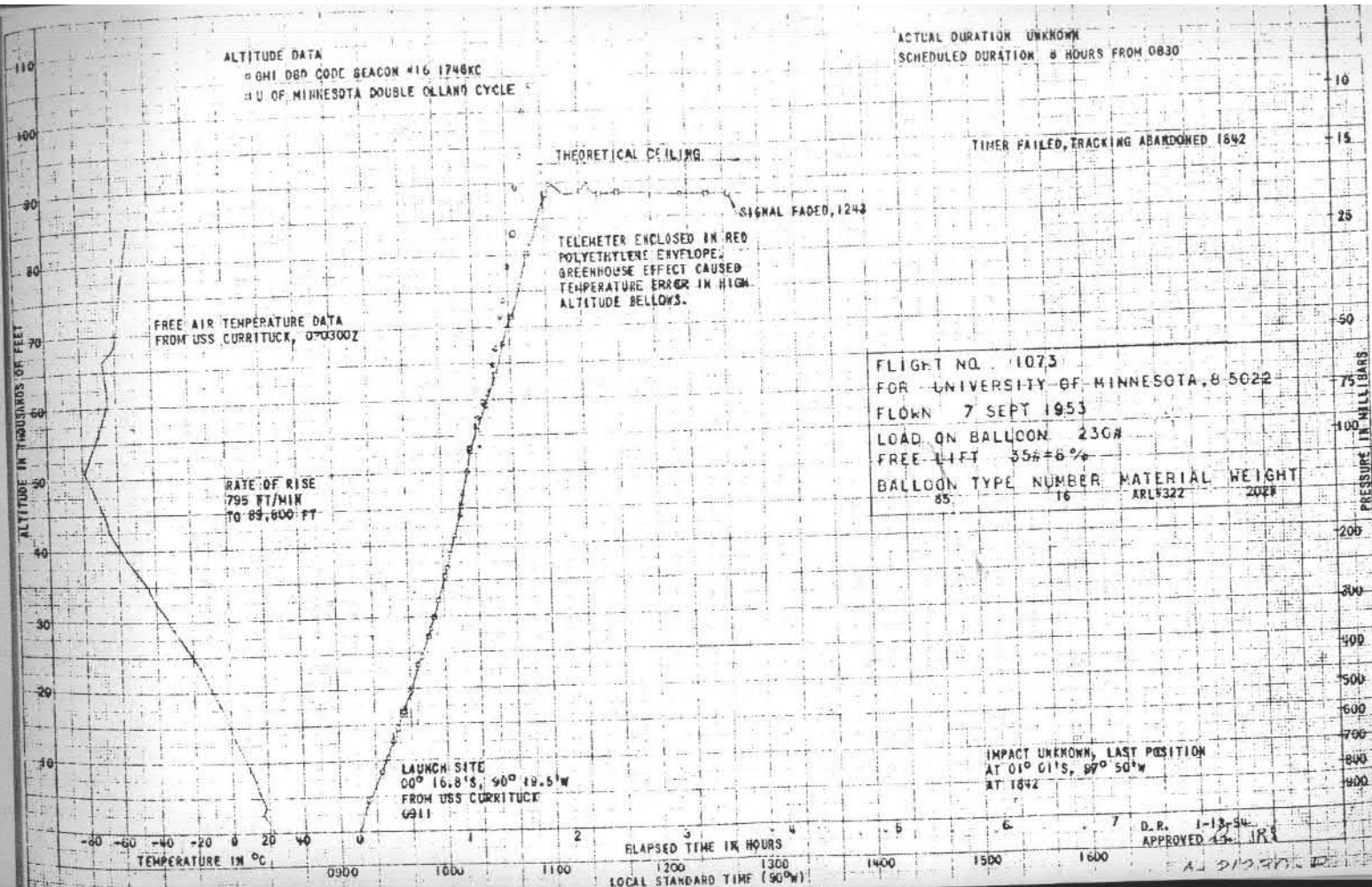
D.R. 1-13-54
 APPROVED AS 1R3

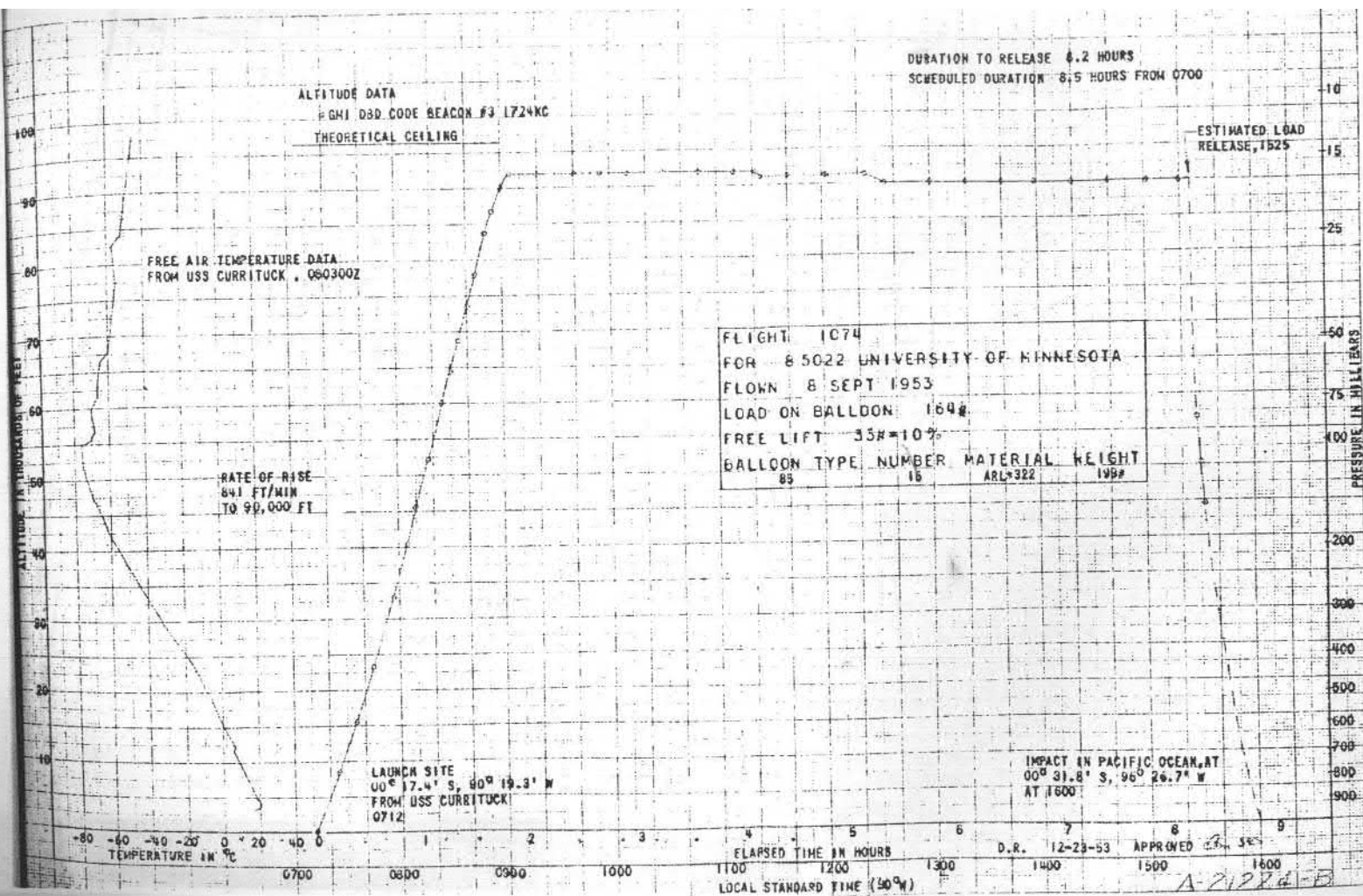
TEMPERATURE IN °C

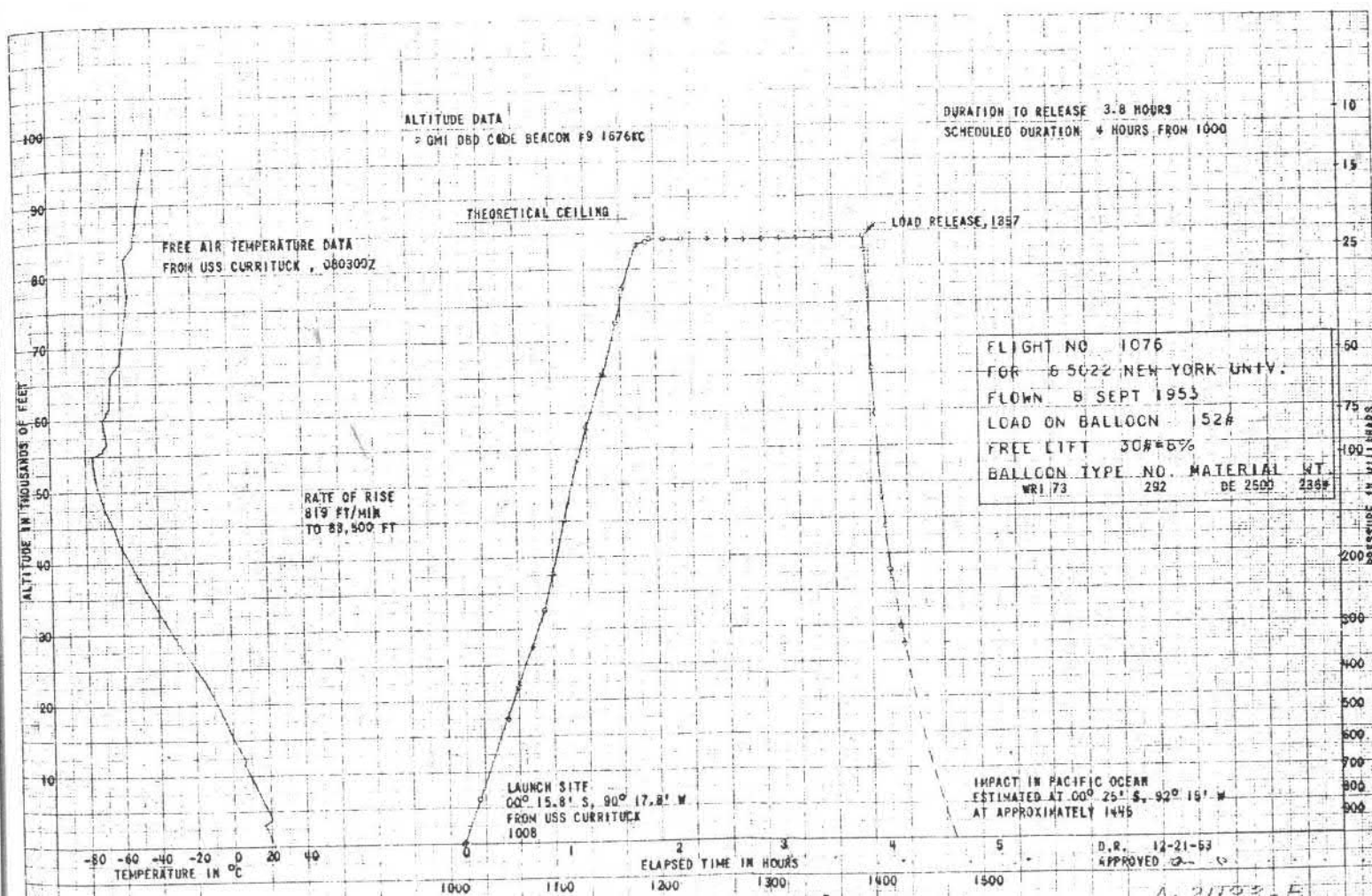
ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

LOCAL STANDARD TIME (90°W)

PRESSURE IN MILLIBARS







ALTITUDE DATA
 *GMI DBD CODE BEACON #19 1746KC

DURATION TO RELEASE 6.3 HOURS
 SCHEDULED DURATION 6 HOURS FROM 0900

FREE AIR TEMPERATURE DATA
 FROM USS CURRITUCK, 080300Z

RATE OF RISE
 786 FT/MIN
 TO 29,600 FT

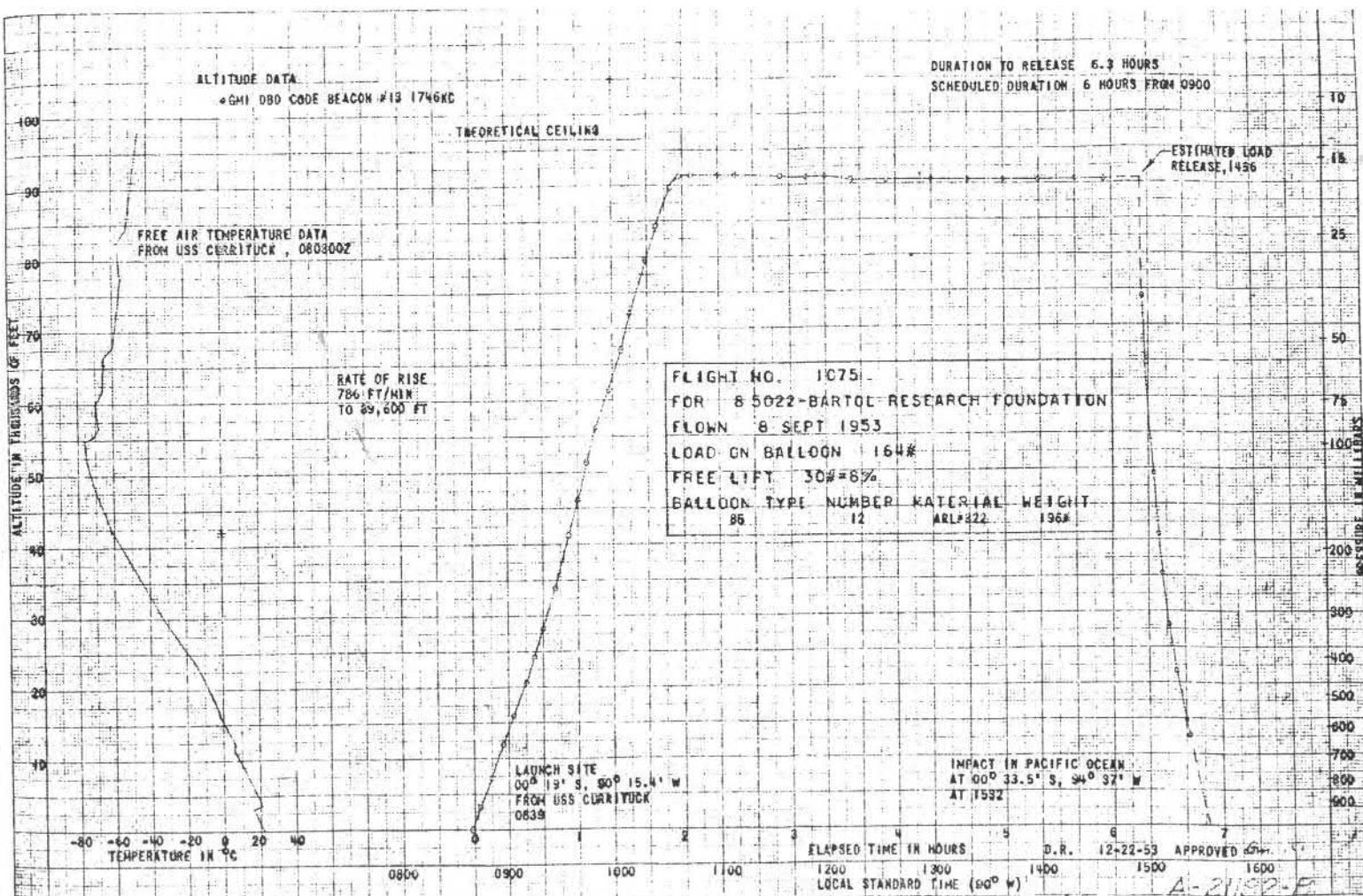
THEORETICAL CEILING

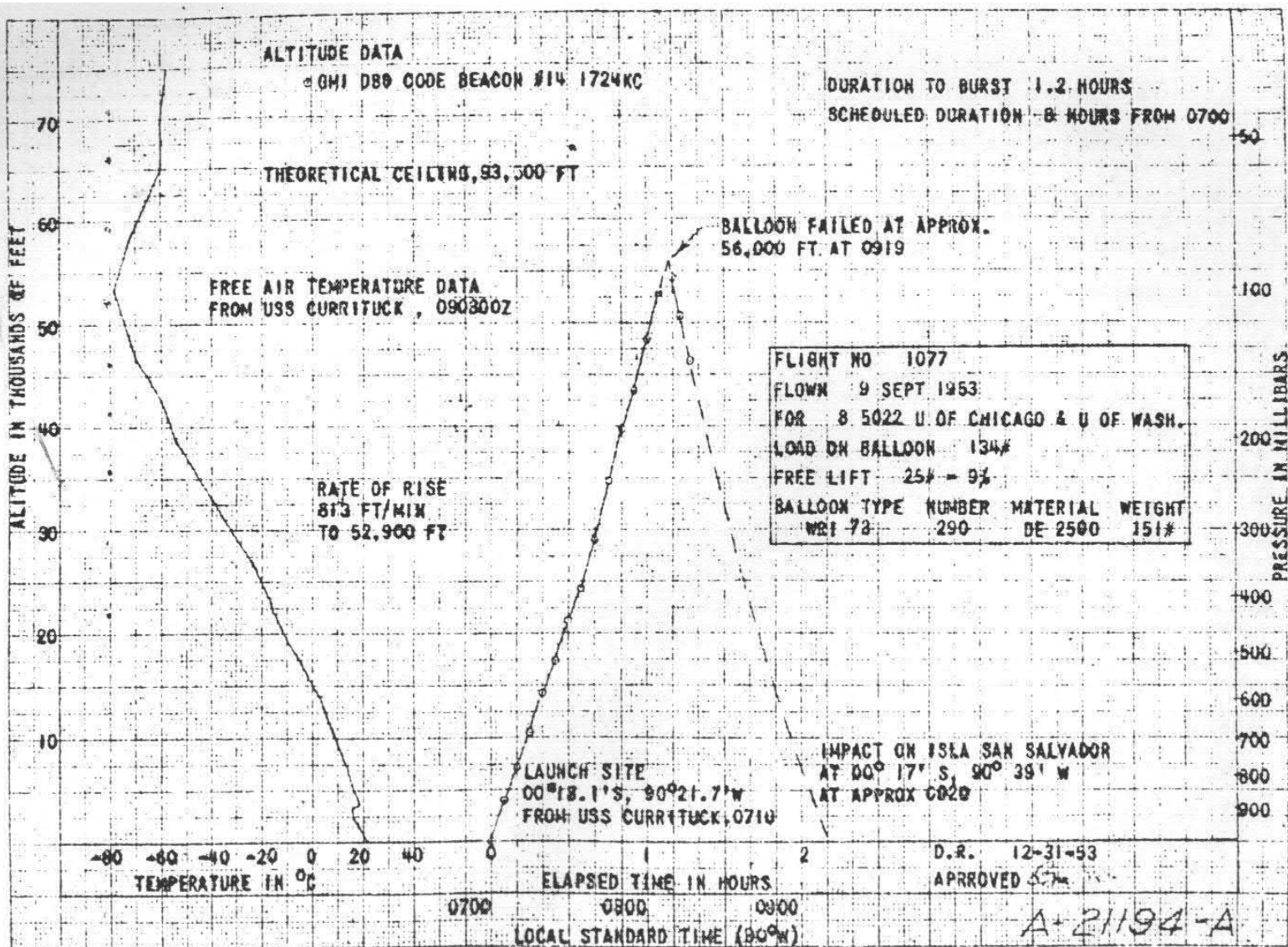
ESTIMATED LOAD
 RELEASE, 1456

FLIGHT NO. 1075
 FOR 85022-BARTOL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
 FLOWN 8 SEPT 1953
 LOAD ON BALLOON 164#
 FREE LIFT 30# = 8%
 BALLOON TYPE NUMBER MATERIAL WEIGHT
 85 12 ARL#22 196#

LAUNCH SITE
 00° 19' S, 80° 15.4' W
 FROM USS CURRITUCK
 0839

IMPACT IN PACIFIC OCEAN
 AT 00° 33.5' S, 94° 37' W
 AT 1552



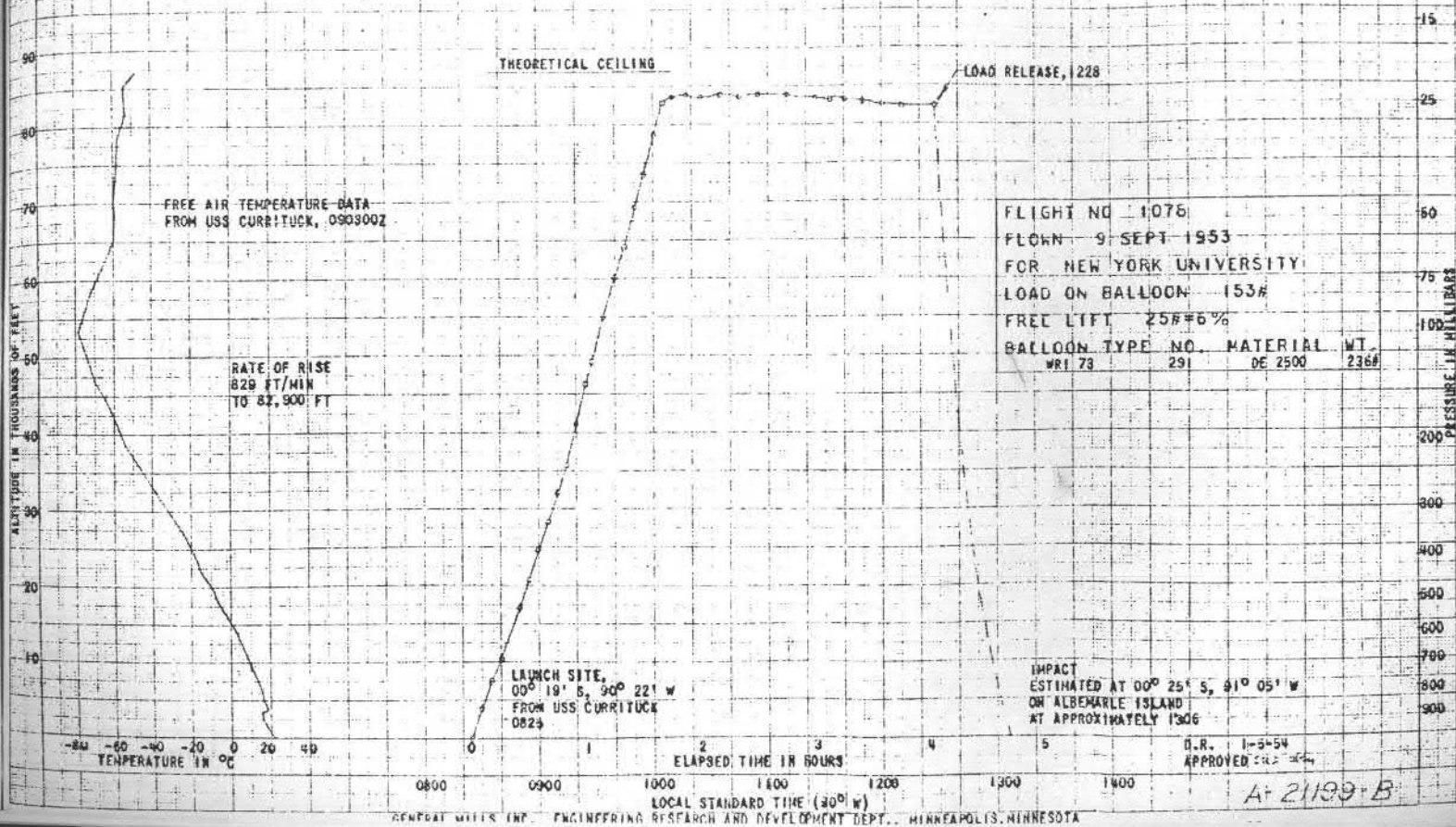


GENERAL MILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUL 29 1955

ALTITUDE DATA
CGHI DBD CODE BEACON #8 1746XC

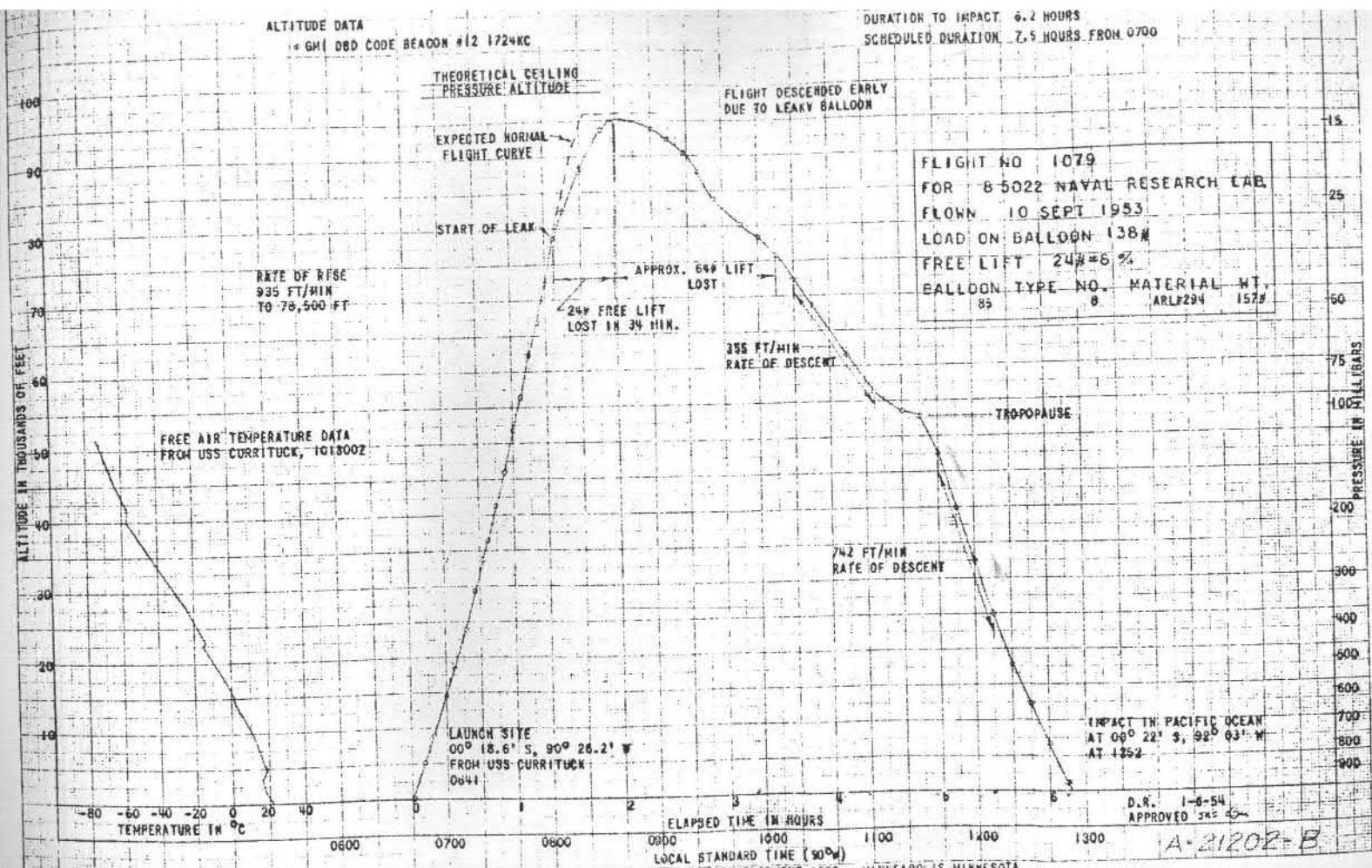
DURATION TO RELEASE 4.7 HOURS
SCHEDULED DURATION 4 HOURS FROM 0830



GENERAL MILLS INC. ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

ALTITUDE DATA
 GHI DBD CODE BEACON #12 1724KC

DURATION TO IMPACT 6.2 HOURS
 SCHEDULED DURATION 7.5 HOURS FROM 0700



GENERAL MILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

ALTITUDE DATA
GHI DBD CODE BEACON #11 1576KC

DURATION UNKNOWN
SCHEDULED DURATION 7 HOURS FROM 0600

THEORETICAL CEILING

TIMER FAILED

FLIGHT NO. 1080
FOR S-3022-BARTOL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
FLOWN 10 SEPT 1953
LOAD ON BALLOON 152#
FREE LIFT 28#-8%
BALLOON TYPE NUMBER MATERIAL WEIGHT
858 17 322 194#

FREE AIR TEMPERATURE DATA
FROM USS CURTIS (TUG, T013002)

RATE OF RISE
516 FT/MIN
TO 26,500 FT

LAUNCH SITE
00° 15.3' S, 90° 31.2' W
FROM USS CURTIS
0747

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

M.M. 3-26-54

APPROVED

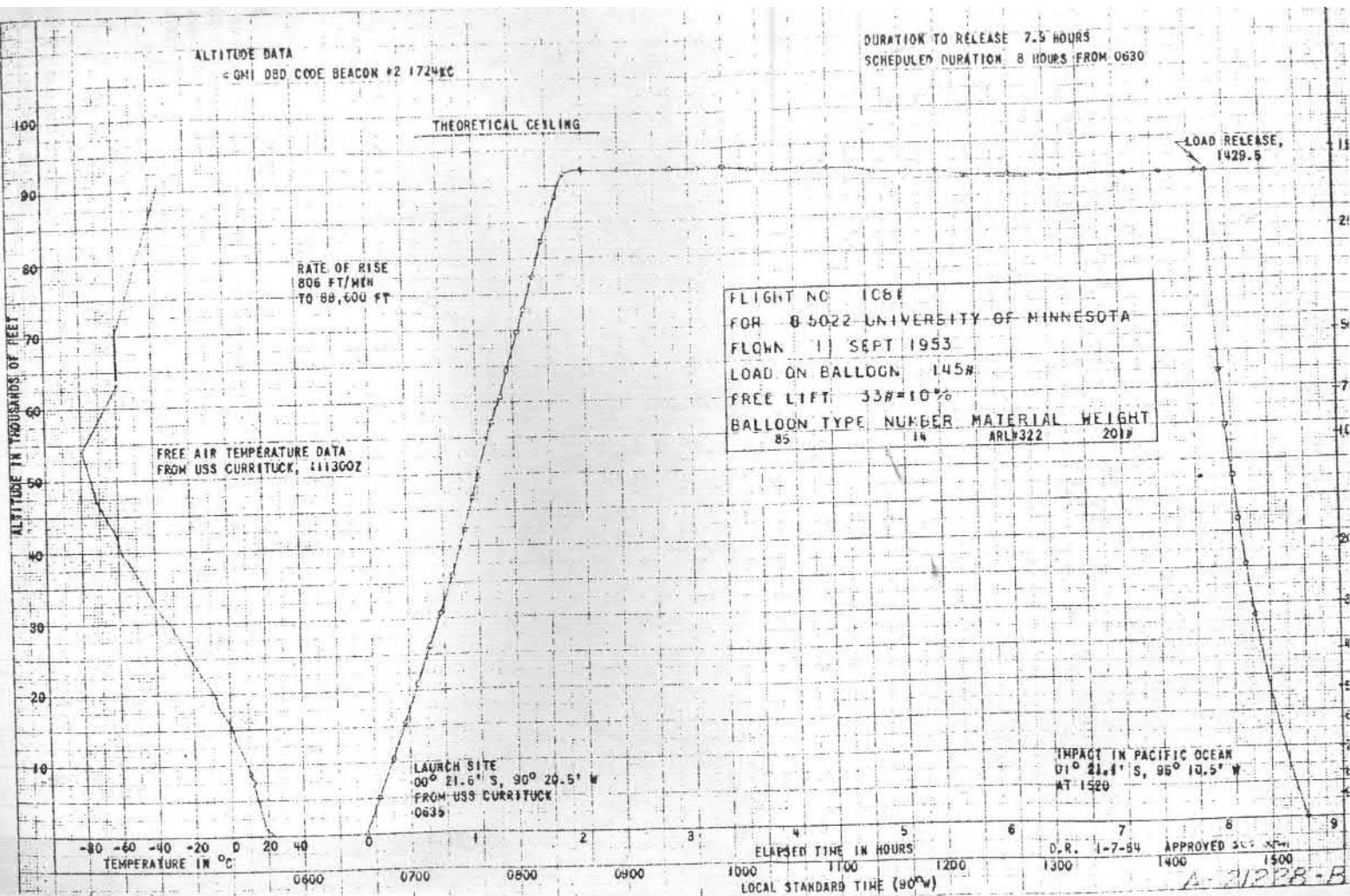
LOCAL STANDARD TIME (90° W)

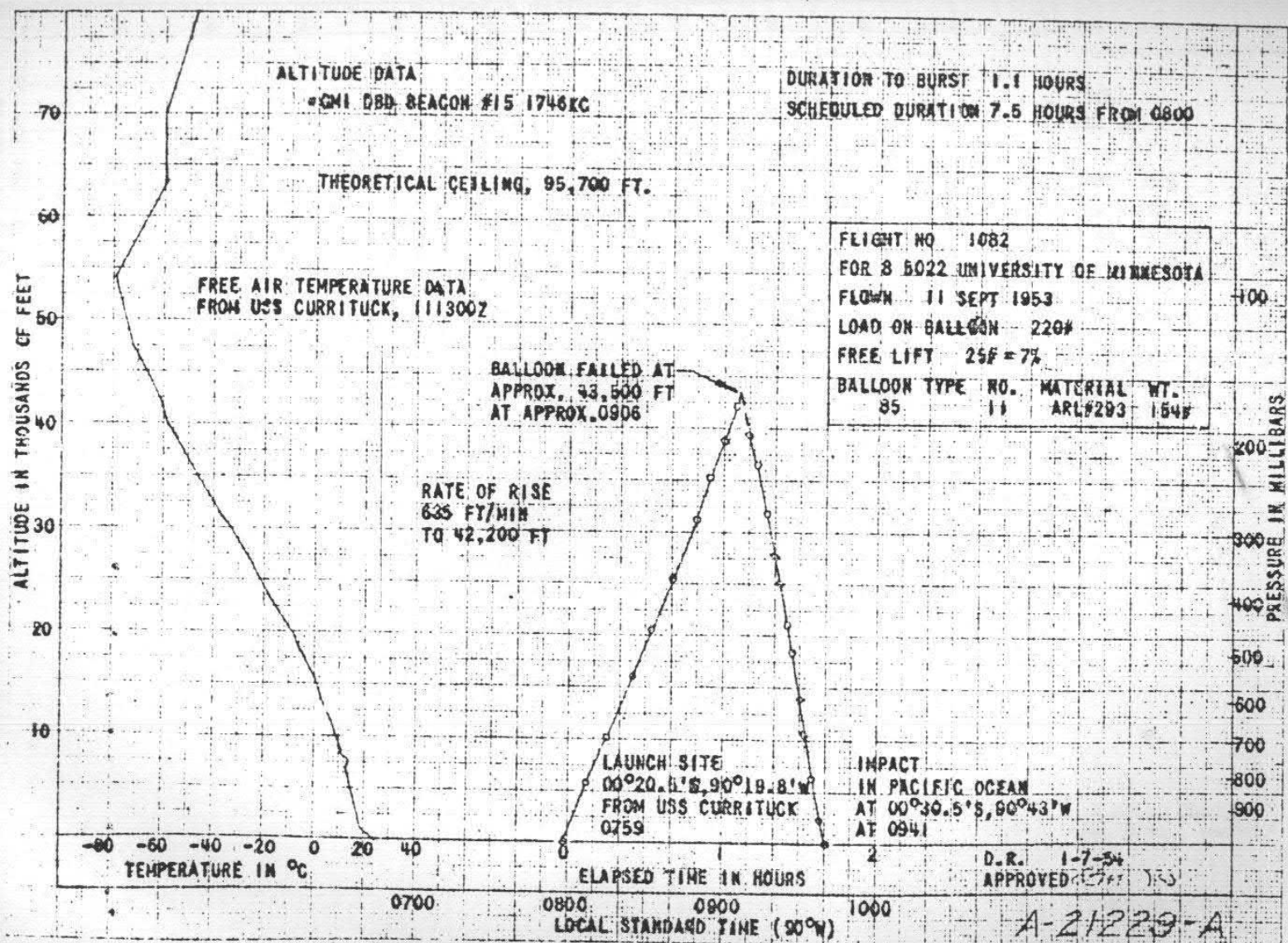
1-21270-15

ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT. MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

ALTITUDE DATA
 GMI DDD CODE BEACON #2 1724KC

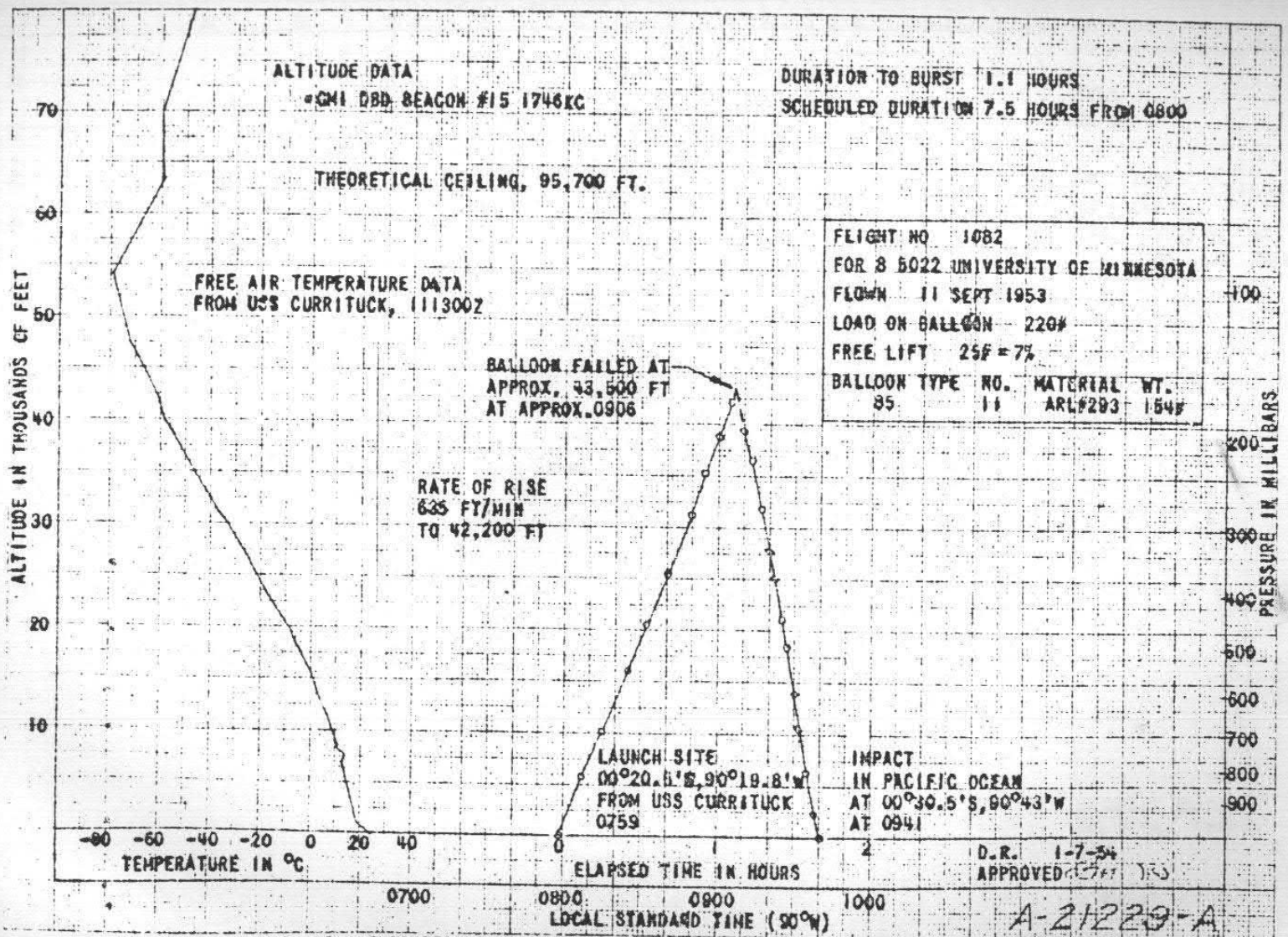
DURATION TO RELEASE 7.5 HOURS
 SCHEDULED DURATION 8 HOURS FROM 0630





GENERAL MILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUL 29 1955



GENERAL MILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUL 29 1955

ALTITUDE DATA
 GMI DBD CODE BEACON #4 1746KC

DURATION TO RELEASE 3.4 HOURS
 SCHEDULED DURATION 3 HOURS FROM 0630

LOAD RELEASE,
 1454

THEORETICAL CEILING

RATE OF RISE
 992 FT/MIN
 TO 97,300 FT

FREE AIR TEMPERATURE DATA
 FROM USS CURRITUCK, 121800Z

FLIGHT NO 11063
 FOR 8 5422 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
 FLOWN 12-SEPT 1953
 LOAD ON BALLOON 17717
 FREE LIFT 28180#

BALLOON TYPE	NUMBER	MATERIAL	WEIGHT
85	13	ARL322	197#

LAUNCH SITE
 00° 21.7' S, 90° 16.5' W
 FROM USS CURRITUCK
 0629

IMPACT IN PACIFIC OCEAN
 00° 00', 90° 54' W
 AT 1532 NOT RECOVERED
 DUE TO DARKNESS

TEMPERATURE IN °C

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

M.I. 2-8-54

APPROVED *Gen* *FE*

LOCAL STANDARD TIME (90°W)

A-21263-B

GENERAL MILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUL 20 1955

Q411 BSACON 1742 RCS.

1

ESTIMATED BALLAST FLOW IN POUNDS

13.2

16.

THEORETICAL CEILING, 99,700 FEET

BALLAST LEVEL 94,000 FEET

BALLAST CIRCUIT ARMED AFTER 0930 CST

RATE OF RISE
937 FT/MIN
TO 97,200 FT.

LAUNCH SITE, UNIV. OF MINN. AIRPORT
AT 0648 CST, 4 JUNE 1954

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

4 June 1954

SCHEDULED DURATION 26.0 HOURS
ACTUAL DURATION 25.4 HOURS

FLIGHT NO. 1135

FLOWN 4 JUNE 1954

FOR 8 5028

LOAD ON BALLOON 369.5#

FREE LIFT 100# = 16%

BALLOON TYPE	NUMBER	MATERIAL	WEIGHT
1161A	29	AFL #333	291.75#

0.0013"

BALLAST 75# 110 STEEL SHOT

FLOW RATE 2.4 LB/MIN (0.32% GROSS LOAD/MIN)

16.8 15

TOTAL BALLAST (75 LBS.) EXPENDED BEFORE 2045 CST
BY OVER CONTROL

ESTIMATED SUNSET ON BALLOON
2042 CST

ESTIMATED SUNRISE ON BALLOON
0421 CST

LOAD RELEASED
BY RADIO COMMAND
AT 0312 CST

2

IMPACT 6 MI. SW
MOBRIE, S.D.
0846 CST
5 JUNE 1954

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

0100 0200
CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

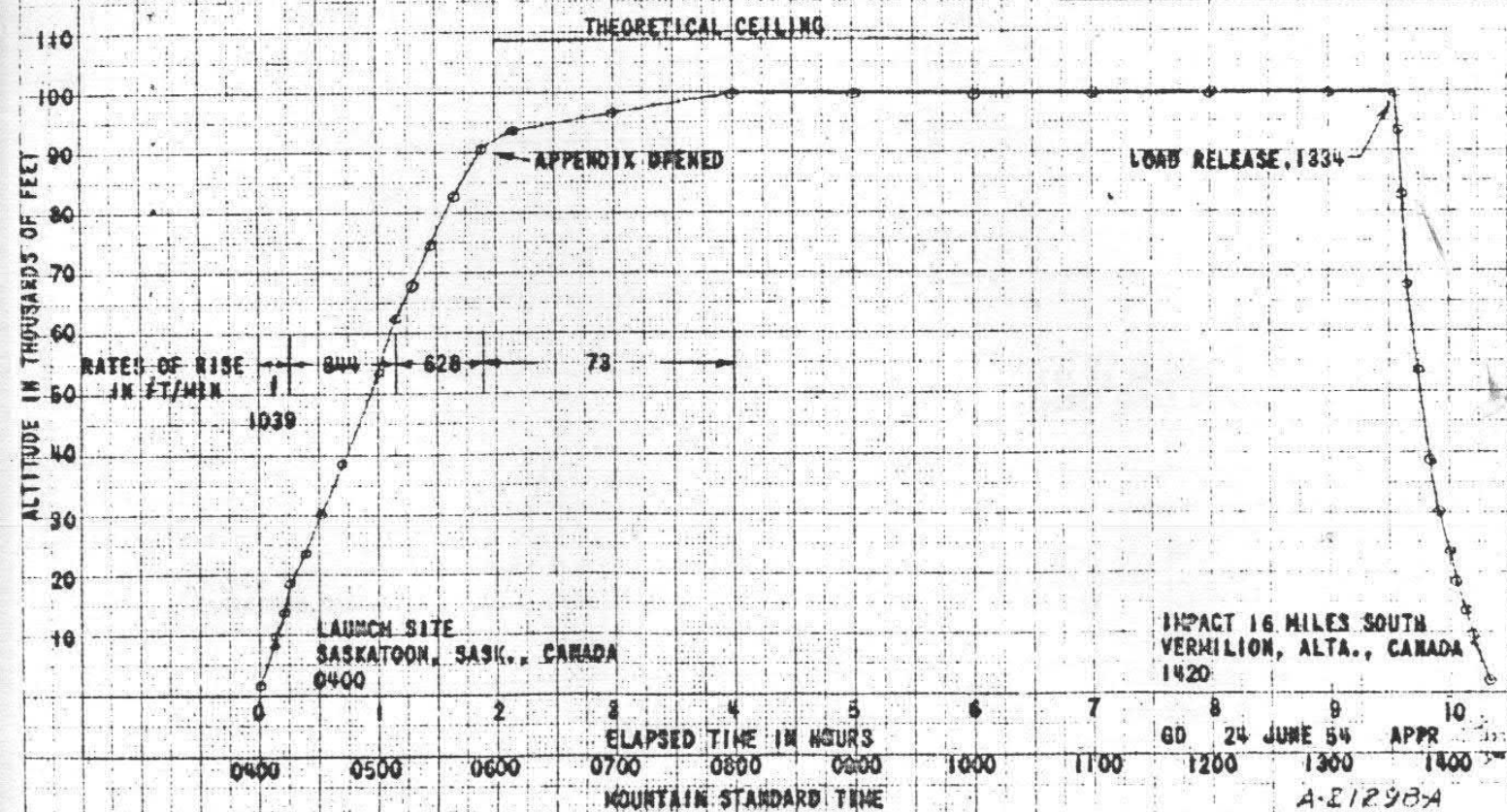
APPROVED

5 June 1954

A-21355-D

ALTITUDE DATA
BAROGRAPH NO. MBS 1058

FLIGHT NO. 1162
 FLOWN 13 JUNE 54
 FCR 8 5023
 LOAD ON BALLOON 122#
 FREE LIFT 75# = 18%
 BALLOON TYPE NO. MATERIAL WT.
 1161 A 30 ARL #332 291#



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JUL 29 1955

ALTITUDE DATA

7 H5 272 BAROGRAPH

1746 KC CODESONDE BEACON

FLIGHT NO. 1153

FLOWN 6 JUNE 1954

FOR B 5023

LOAD ON BALLOON 811

FREE LIFT 448 +18%

BALLOON TYPE	NUMBER	MATERIAL	WEIGHT
85	7	ARLH294	185A

THEORETICAL CEILING 105,300 FT

RATE OF RISE
706 FT/MIN
TO 8100 FT
483 FT/MIN
FROM 8100 FT
TO 13,800 FT

LAUNCH SITE
SASKATOON, SASK.
0511 CST

LEAK IN BALLOON
CAUSED EARLY DESCENT

IMPACT, 2 MI. SW
MENNON, SASK.
0614 CST

D.R. 5 NOV 54
APPROVED

0500

ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS

0600

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

A-21300A

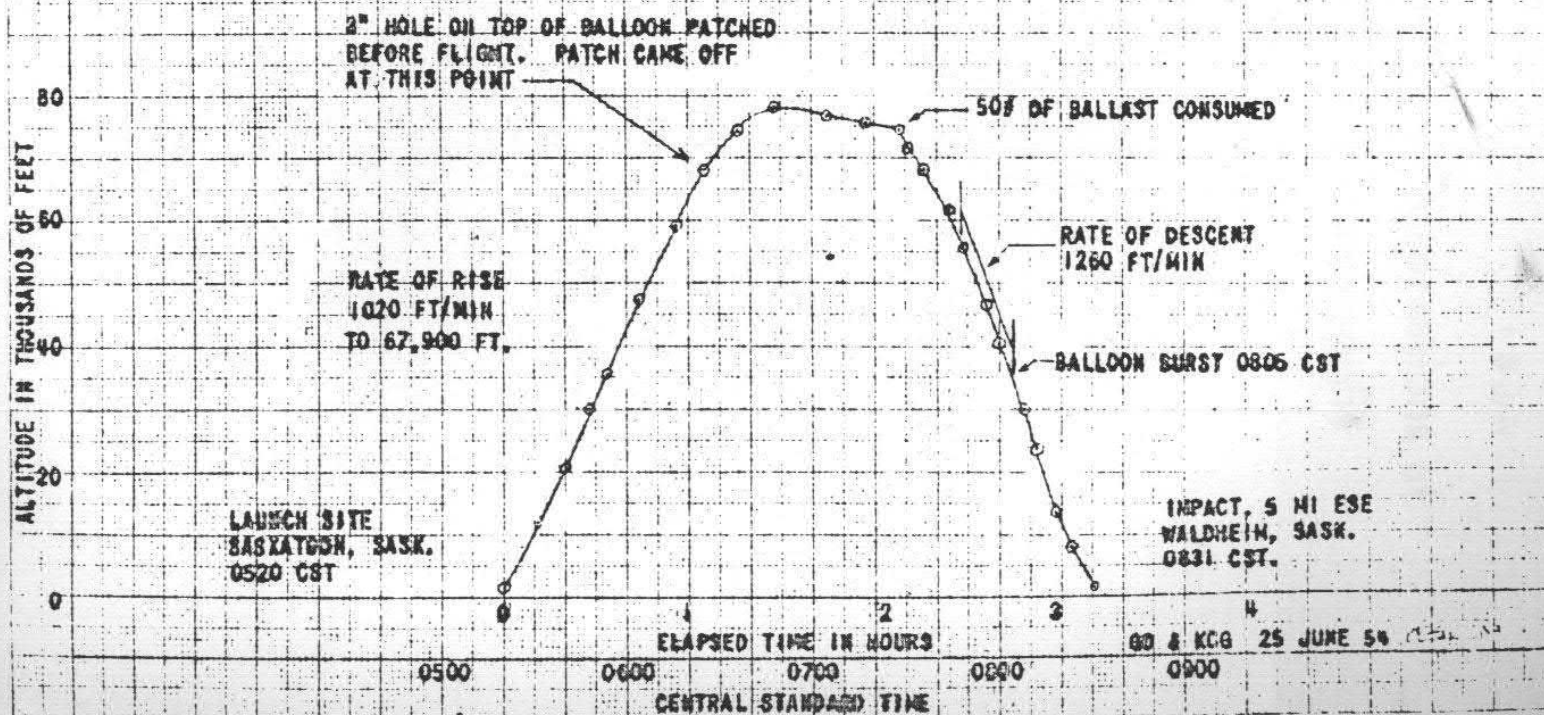
GENERAL MILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

JUL 29 1955

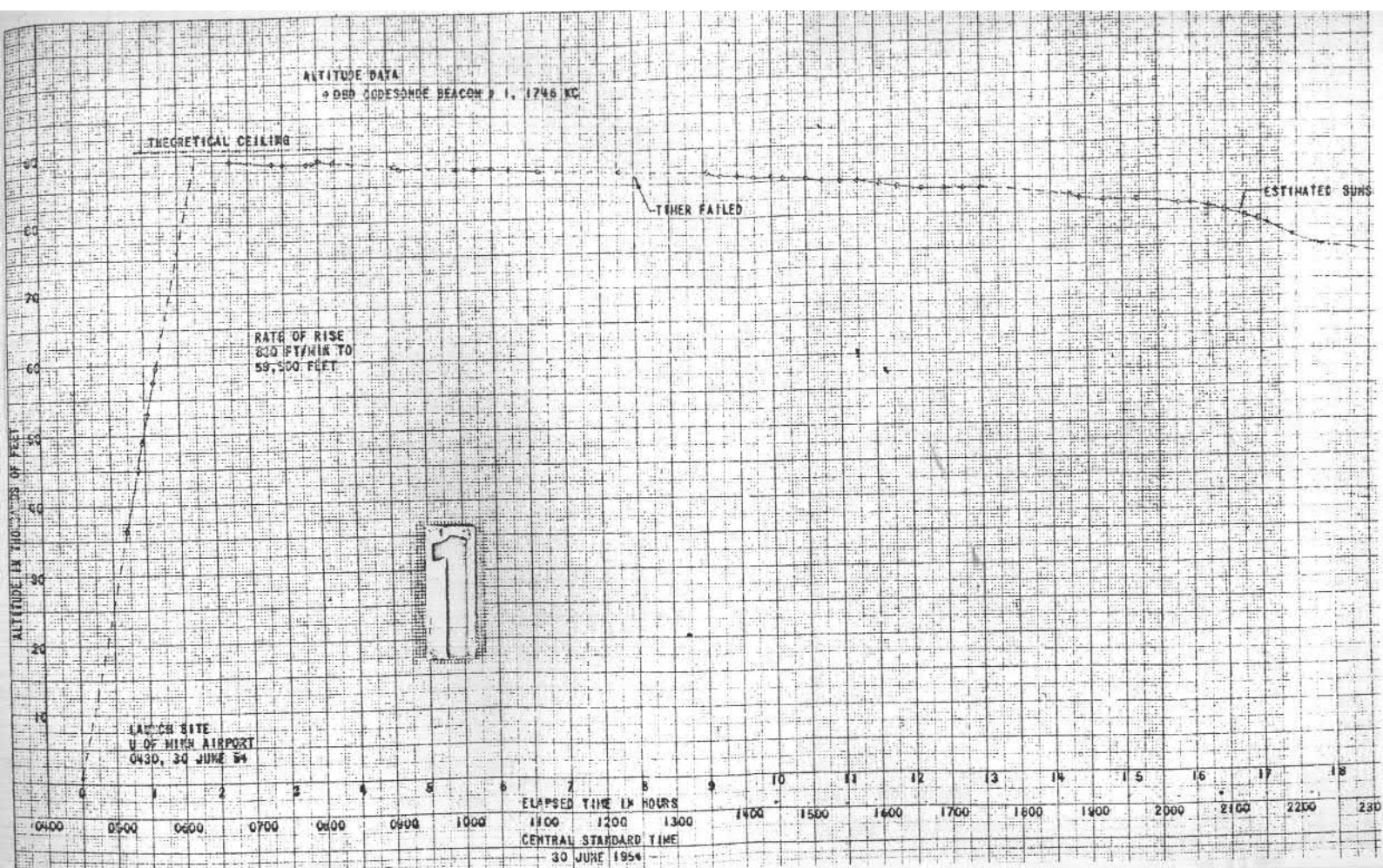
ALTITUDE DATA
 • BAROGRAPH MH5 1056

THEORETICAL CEILING 115,550 FT.

FLIGHT 1154		
FLOWN 15 JUNE 1954		
FOR B 5023		
LOAD ON BALLOON 153#		
FREE LIFT 80.5# = 20%		
BALLOON TYPE	NUMBER	MATERIAL WEIGHT
131M TT	1	ARL #320 256.6#
		& #294



GENERAL MILLS INC., ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPT., MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



2

ESTIMATED SUNSET ON BALLOON, 2312

ESTIMATED SUNRISE ON BALLOON, 0400

SIGNAL F.

FLIGHT NO. 1181
 FOR 8 5023
 FLOWN 80 WIND 100
 LEAD ON BALLOON 7.5
 PREC LIFT 650 F 15.5
 BALLOON TYPE NUMBER WATER WGT
 700 15 201/337 2450

NO RECOVERY
 IMPACT UNKNOWN

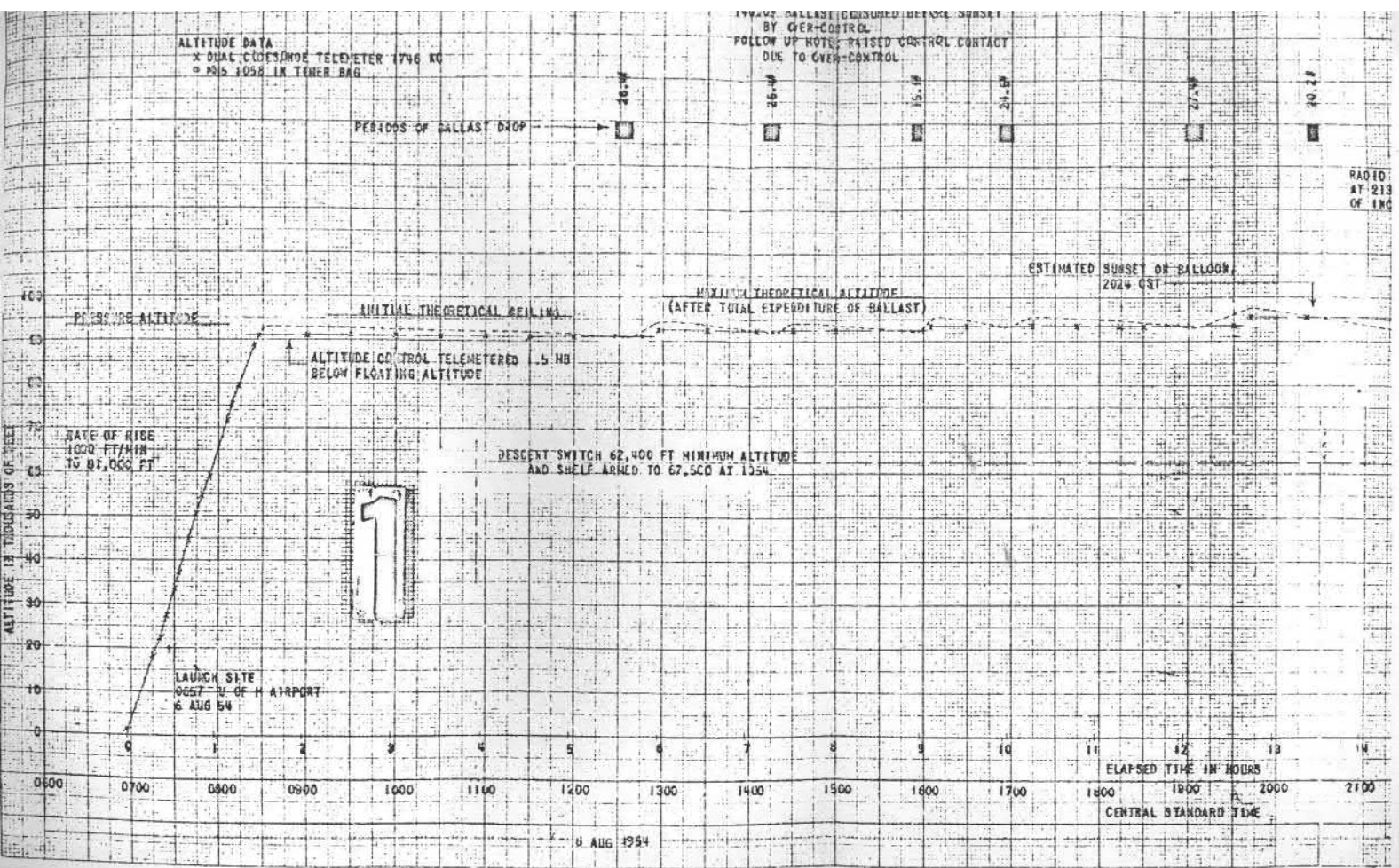
ELAPSED TIME IN HOURS
 CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

1 JULY 1954

APPROVED 24 JAN 55
 1000 1100 1200 1300

A-21540-D

29 1955



SCHEDULED DURATION 25.5 HOURS
ACTUAL DURATION 27.2 HOURS

RADIO RELEASE TRANSMITTER OPERATED AT MPLS.
AT 213001 - LOAD DID NOT RELEASE BECAUSE
OF INCORRECT SET POINT DISTANCE.

TELEMETRY STOPPED 2135 WHEN BATTERY
DRAIN TO BY CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF
OF BALLAST VALVE AFTER 2020.

2

LOAD RELEASE
BY ELECTRIC FINDER
1010 CST

ESTIMATED SUBRISE ON BALLOON.
0510 CST

FLIGHT NO. 1211
FLOWN 6 AUG 1954
FOR 8.5023
LOAD ON BALLOON 523.54
FREE LIST 1107 = 132
BALLOON TYPE 126" TAILORED TAPPELESS
8.24 MIL POLYETHYLENE
92' DUCT
NUMBER MATERIAL WEIGHT
7 ARL 925 351#
BALLAST 1400 IRON SHOT
FLOW RATE: 2.4 LB/MIN (0.27% GROSS LOAD/MIN)

IMPACT
1042 15 EWE
NEVELL, S DAK
7 AUG 54

